

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1915.

GET MORE PULMOTORS.

Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.—Pope.

THE AUTO-FIENDS REVELLING AGAIN.

It is surely time for a determined crusade by the police against the auto-fiends who are driving the joy-route over dead and dying victims.

The dragnet ought to go out for every speeding car, and every driver should answer for breaking the law. The police say that after the speeders are arrested and the evidence laid before Judge Monsarrat, the police magistrate is too lenient, that he lets notorious offenses go unpunished. Judge Monsarrat says—or he has said when on previous occasions this complaint was made—that the police evidence is insufficient.

It is time to thrash out the facts of this controversy and to end it—time to begin a real and effective crusade against the red and reckless fiends of the road.

THEY SHOULD OFFER THEIR RESIGNATIONS.

Mayor Fern's action in appointing a new city civil service commission upon the eve of a change in administrations may not be intended to put Mayor-elect Lane "in a hole," but it certainly has that aspect.

Whether such was or was not the mayor's intention now makes little difference. The fact at any rate is that the incoming mayor is placed at a distinct disadvantage. Under ordinary and logical procedure, he himself should have the naming of the new commission. For Mayor Fern to say that he had to make the appointments on or before January 1 is idle; if he had made no appointments, the present commissioners would have held office until Mayor Lane, coming into the executive chair on January 4, made his own selections.

As the commission stands, it will hold office during the term of a mayor who has had nothing to say regarding the appointments. The commission may or may not be acceptable to Mayor Lane. The point is that the outgoing mayor did not appoint the incoming mayor's selections. And Lane is placed in a position where he cannot object to this situation without being accused of personal dislike for the commissioners. As two of them are active Republicans, an objection from Lane would probably mean a factional fight.

It was a pretty political play for Fern to make and he made it well. He is not to be blamed for it. His calibre as a mayor has been measured by just that sort of politics.

But the two Republican commissioners need not give their assent to this political play. In fact, they should not.

Both of them are active members of the Republican territorial committee. Mr. Andrews is its chairman. As loyal Republicans, anxious to promote harmony and through harmony efficiency in the Republican party's administration of city affairs, they should place their resignations at the disposal of the incoming mayor.

The legislative act which provides for the appointment of the police and fire civil service commission clearly recognizes that the mayor has the appointment of the commissioners, that the personnel of the commission is subject to his wishes. Mayor Lane has not yet acceded to office. Unless and until his official acts prove otherwise, he is to be regarded as a competent mayor. It is no more than common justice that his hands should be left free unless it is definitely shown that his discretion in appointments is not to be trusted.

Members of the Republican committees should be the last to embarrass the mayor at the outset of his term of office. It is, of course, not incumbent upon the Democratic member of the commission to tender his resignation, but certainly the Republicans, Messrs. Andrews and Baron, should do so.

The prompt response of physicians and the availability of a pulmotor at Waikiki beach saved two lives yesterday.

To say that the pulmotor is a very necessary apparatus to have at the beach bathing-resorts is now to repeat a truism. Its usefulness has repeatedly been demonstrated.

Steps should be taken by the city if necessary to see that more pulmotors are installed at the beach and there should be one at the police station so that it could be carried out by the police ambulance on such cases as those unfortunate ones of New Year's Day. As a starter, the city should get a pulmotor for the police station and one for the public baths and at both places should instruct attendants in their use.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR RAILROADS.

A marked effect on business sentiment is reported as having followed the recent ruling of the interstate commerce commission on railroad freight rates. In his latest letter on financial conditions, Banker Henry Clews says:

"The Interstate Commerce Commission decision granting the 5 per cent increase in rates on Eastern roads, with the exceptions specified, will have a far-reaching moral effect. The exceptions include rail-lake-and-rail and rail-and-lake rates; also the rates on bituminous coal and coke. Anthracite coal and iron ore and rates held by unexpired orders of the Commission are likewise excepted. Confidence will receive a new stimulus. It marks a change of attitude of the commission toward the railroads that cannot but be beneficial. Railroad credit will be strengthened, and the roads will be able to make more definite plans for their future. It is said the earnings of the roads will be increased about 40 to 50 millions. This is not a large sum, relatively considered; but the action of the commission is quite sufficient to check distrust and inspire confidence. One effect of the decision will be to create a more hopeful feeling in the steel industry, of which the railroads are the best customers; and it may be hoped that their action will avert the proposed reduction of wages in that industry. The effect upon the stock market was naturally encouraging, although some caution was observed until the results could be more definitely measured. The decision will also have a stimulating effect upon business in general, and will aid to counteract the depressing influences of the war."

Governor Pinkham's official garb of white worn at a reception yesterday morning may start a much-needed wave of sartorial reform in this balmy clime. Why not the Mark Twain style—white evening clothes and all? A bas the sober black!

Seattle wants a steamship line to Honolulu, says a Seattle steamship man. Honolulu also wants a Seattle line. This mutual desire ought to work out somehow into freight and passenger business sufficient to transform the wish into the deed.

Part of the necessary equipment of any well-conducted European army nowadays is a battery of 11-inch adding machines to count the prisoners.

President Poincare says there will be peace by next January 1. The taking of Alsace and Lorraine hasn't progressed very far, either.

President Yuan Shih-Kai has revived sun-worship in China, but it's not the worship of Dr. Sun.

1915's greeting in Honolulu could not be mistaken for anything but a hearty welcome.

The Kaiser's confidence in divine aid for the German cause is not shared by the Allies.

CONGRESS AS SEEN FROM HAWAII

The Congressional Record has been dubbed the "greatest bore on earth," and the "greatest newspaper on earth," with a variety of titles ranging between these two extremes. The Star-Bulletin will from time to time during the short session of the present Congress endeavor to cull from the columns of the publication in question items of general interest to its readers. While perhaps the selections made by this paper may not corroborate the claim that the Congressional Record is the greatest newspaper published, we shall endeavor to demonstrate that it is by no means the greatest bore.

PUBLICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS FOR JUDICIAL POSITIONS.

The Congressional Record of December 9th, in so far as the debate as to an additional judge for the southern district of Georgia is concerned, is an interesting illustration of the political aspect of certain questions which arise in Congress. The Democratic party had declared in the platform which has become honored by breach rather than observance, that the president should make public all endorsements made in behalf of any person appointed as a federal judge. On a bill pending in Congress for the appointment of an additional federal judge in Georgia, the minority leader, Mr. Mann, kindly offered an amendment in the words: "That the president shall make public all endorsements made on behalf of the person appointed as such district judge." The distinguished leader, while professing his own disbelief in the soundness of the amendment, quoted from a speech of Secretary of State Bryan, showing that the proposed amendment was in line with Democratic ideas. Mr. Mann then said: "So in order that we know more, I ask the opportunity that gentlemen may vote on the amendment once more." On being asked whether he had voted for a similar amendment on a previous occasion, Mr. Mann replied: "No, and I shall not vote for this one. I hope no one requires me to make an announcement that I am not in favor of most of the provisions of the Democratic platform; that is one provision I do not favor. Will gentlemen on the other side repudiate it? It was no dishonor to me to repudiate."

And here comes in the politics as disclosed by the Record. The discussion was in the committee of the whole, where no provision is made for record of votes. There were 77 members present in the committee of the whole, and 47 voted in favor of the amendment and 30 against it. When the amendment itself reached the house there were but 36 who favored it and 37 were opposed to it. On the point of no quorum being made, there was a call of the house, and finally Mann had placed the house on record. There were 160 in favor of the amendment and 103 against it. Its fate in the senate was still problematical.

The proposed amendment is of peculiar interest to the people of Hawaii. It would be interesting, indeed, were the president compelled, in line with the Democratic platform, to make public the endorsements received by him for appointments to judgeships in Hawaii.

MILEAGE.

With a regularity equaling changes of the moon, or defeats of McCandless for the delegateship, Congress at each session has before it the question of mileage for its members. Each year the charge is made that the present rate of 20 cents per mile in traveling and from Washington is a graft. Each session amendments are offered and temporarily carried. Each session closes with the mileage untouched.

The present short session in no exception. The matter arose as per schedule on December 15, in a discussion on the legislative, executive and judiciary appropriation bill. Amendments to cut the rate to 10 cents and to 5 cents per mile were beaten, and finally the same old amendment, which was first adopted and then rejected at the last session was carried. It reads: "That in lieu of all mileage each senator, representative, delegate or resident commissioner shall be allowed his actual traveling expenses for himself and the dependent members of his family in coming from and returning to his home at each session of the Congress."

There is little doubt but that the amendment will finally be disposed of as heretofore. Mr. Good, of Iowa, remarked as follows:

Mr. Chairman, there are some honest differences of opinion between members of the subcommittee that reported this bill on the question of mileage. There is absolutely no difference of opinion on what this legislative bill will contain when it is signed by the president, so far as the mileage proposition is concerned. We all know that this is mere boys' play. At this point Mr. Barnhart, a Democratic war horse from Indiana, interjected the words "every year," and Mr. Good proceeded as follows:

It was only a few months ago that for days and weeks the house conferees were engaged with the senate conferees in attempting to settle this question. Irrespective of what this house does, every member of the house who knows anything about the subject knows that the senate will write

THE WAR IN CONGRESS.

Anent the very interesting discussion going on in Congress at the present time on a bill seeking to forbid all shipments to belligerents, the speech of Dr. Bartholdt, well known in Hawaii, made on December 16, 1914, is interesting. Bartholdt, Lobeck and Vollmer, all members of the house, had been accused by an article in the New York Sun of acting in reality as agents of the German government in Congress. Dr. Bartholdt in no uncertain terms flayed the author of the rumor. His speech was quite a long one, delivered under the question of personal privilege. We quote but one paragraph of it, merely for the purpose of showing that there is more or less feeling in Congress over the war:

Mr. Speaker, during my long service in this house I have heard read from the clerk's desk many an accusation against members of this body, but none more serious than the one just reported. The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Vollmer) the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. Lobeck) and myself are practically charged with high treason against the government of the United States by the unequivocal assertion that "we are acting as agents of the German government in Congress." My colleagues will no doubt speak for themselves, though we all could probably well afford to leave the whole matter, without saying another word, to the judgment of the house and the country, considering the fact that the charge emanates from the New York spokesman of a foreign belligerent government which, according to reports, would be at its rope's end-but for the contraband supplies it received from the United States. Certainly I shall not distinguish the libel with an affirmation of loyalty to my country in a body of which I have had the honor of being a member for 22 years, and which knows my record, no matter how humble, to be an open book. It is true I am an American citizen of German birth, but this means, if I do not differ from all American Germans, that I am a man who is loyal to the Stars and Stripes, and who is for America against England, for America against Germany, for America against the world. Indeed, if the Star-Spangled Banner is not my flag, then I have no flag. But true to my bride, I shall not be faithless to my mother, and you would have a right to despise me if I were. Therefore, as the United States is not an English dependency, I can reconcile it with my Americanism to give my sympathy to the fatherland just as well as so many newspaper editors evidently reconcile their Americanism with the open espousal of the cause of the allies. But this sympathy has no more to do with the government of Germany than with the government of Siam. Lord Shaftesbury once said that the human heart cannot possibly be neutral, that it constantly takes part one way or the other. However that may be, it is a man's private affair. In my capacity as a representative I have never yet given utterance to an unneutral word, nor have I done an unneutral act.

Trial of criminal cases in federal court will be renewed Monday morning, beginning at 8:30 o'clock, at which hour the trial jurors are expected to be present for duty. The grand jury for the April term will not be drawn until next month.

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Building operations for November in 133 cities in the United States showed a decrease of 13.7 per cent from November, 1913, according to a Bradstreet report just issued. This decrease was less than the drop in October, which was 21 per cent from the corresponding month in 1913. In September the decrease was 33 per cent.

Deacon S. K. Kamaopili will address the inmates of the Moiliili girls' industrial school at a meeting at Ka-moiliili church tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. He will speak at the Manoa Hawaiian church tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.

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Personal Mention

V. VETLESEN and son of Waikuku are visitors at the capital. They arrived on the steamer Mauna Kea this morning.

R. I. LILLIE has completed a business tour of the island of Hawaii, returning to this city today in the steamer Mauna Kea.

A. M. BROWN, deputy prosecuting attorney, was among the passengers returning from Maui in the steamer Mauna Kea this morning.

Israel L. White of the Newark Evening News is a passenger for the Orient on the Nippon Maru. He is on his way to Manila to secure some first-hand knowledge of the Philippine situation.

W. H. Tidwell and L. W. Bean, special agents of the Department of the Treasury of Washington, D. C., who have been inspecting the local customs department for the past three weeks, will return to the mainland early this month, probably on the Wilhelmina January 5. Mr. Tidwell said this morning that nothing worthy of public mention now had been discovered on the tour of inspection.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—GOVERNOR PINKHAM: Any agitation for an elevator in the capitol building will receive my hearty kokua.

—CLIFFORD CHARLOCK (Chief Sanitary Inspector): H. Gooding Field made a thorough investigation of the health department some time ago for the Chamber of Commerce. I hope the report of his investigation will be made public very soon.

The women's auxiliary and guild of St. Andrews' cathedral will meet in the guild hall at 3 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon.